

Prasad KARIYAWASAM (Sri Lanka)

Date and place of birth: 21 March 1954, Galle, Sri Lanka

Working Languages: English and Sinhala

Current positions/functions

Additional Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka.
Responsibilities include multilateral affairs, human rights, migration matters, bilateral affairs of the South Asian region.

Experience on human rights issues, especially in the context of the UN System

The Alternate Representative of Sri Lanka at the fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth Sessions of the UN Commission for Human Rights (CHR) held in Geneva and led the observer delegation of Sri Lanka to the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth Sessions of CHR. At the fifty-ninth Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, elected as a Vice-Chairperson and served in the Expanded Bureau of the fifty-ninth CHR. From 2005 to 2008 was Chairperson of the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israel Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Professional activities in relation to the protection of the rights of migrant workers

President of the Council of the International Organization for Migration in the years 2001–2002, and gained both practical and conference experience pertaining to issues with regard to migration and protection of migrant workers. Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Riyadh from 1989 to 1992 and observed first-hand, travails of the migrant worker population living in the Middle East. The first Chairperson of the Committee on Migrant Workers and held this post until 2008, during the initial formative stages of the Committee on Migrant Workers and leading the evolution and consolidation of working methods and procedures of the committee, as well as the *advocacy* of the Convention. Chair of the Meetings of the Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies and Inter-Committee Meetings for the year 2004.

Other activities relevant to the Convention

Keynote Speaker at the Public Conference on Migrant Workers and Human Rights organized by the Irish Human Rights Commission and the Law Society of Ireland held in Dublin, Ireland on 15 October, 2005.

Keynote Speaker at the 8th International Conference on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Bolivia on 24 October, 2006.

Keynote Presentation on Globalization, Migration and Human Rights at the Seminar for Members of Parliamentary Committees Working on Human Rights and other Committees Addressing Migration Issues held at the Inter Parliamentary Committee (IPU) Headquarters in Geneva, on 24^h October, 2007.

Represented Sri Lanka as well as the Committee on Migrant Workers at the Global Forum on Migration and Development International Conference held in Philippines on 27–30 October 2008.